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# Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 AF-08 ARA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2819
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: FAO, OCON
SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR 51ST SESSION OF FAO'S COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED THE 51ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS (CCP) WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE FAO COMMODITY DIVISION, ANTHONY LEEKS, AND CCP SECRETARY BRANCO. THE ANNOTATED AGENDA OF THE CCP HAS BEEN SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT BY THE FAO AND THE SUBSTANTIVE PART IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:
II. WORLD COMMODITY SITUATION AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION
3. MAIN ISSUES IN WORLD COMMODITY SITUATION
4. SPECIFIC COMMODITY MATTERS REQUIRING CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE:
(A) OPERATION OF INFORMAL AGREEMENTS ON HARD FIBERS AND ON JUTE, KENAF AND ALLIED FIBERS
(B) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SECTOR
(C) PROGRESS OF FAO WORK ON COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ON TEA AND BANAS
(D) REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SURPLUS
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DISPOSAL (CSD) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES TO ITS ROLE IN "GREY AREA" TRANSACTIONS
(E) OTHER COMMODITY PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE OR BY ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES
5. REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL ACTION RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IN OTHER FORA, INCLUDING UNCTAD, GATT AND CIEC, AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF FAO:

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III. OTHER FAO ACTIVITIES OF CONCERN TO THE COMMITTEE
6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON FAO'S WORK:
(A) STRATEGY FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT
(B) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PROJECTIONS TO 1985
(C) ASSISTANCE ON THE FORMULATION OF COMMODITY POLICY AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL END TEXT

2. LEEKS EXPECTS A NON-POLEMIC, BUSINESS-LIKE MEETING. BRITO OF BRAZIL IS EXPECTED TO BE ELECTED CHAIRMAN. HE IS THE ONLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATE AND DOES NOT EXPECT HIS BECOMING FAO SPOKESMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 WILL AFFECT HIS NOMINATION.

3. THE MAIN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WILL CENTER AROUND A PAPER YET TO BE DRAFTED ON PRINCIPAL ISSUES IN WORLD COMMODITY SITUATION. LEEKS OUTLINED PAPER AS ONE IN WHICH FAO HOPES TO GROUP COMMODITIES INTO SIMILAR PROBLEMS--FOR EXAMPLE, SURPLUS PRODUCTION, DEFICIT PRODUCTION AND EXTREME COMPETITION FROM SYNTHETICS. PAPER WOULD DESCRIBE PROBLEMS AND WHAT IS BEING DONE TO MEET THE PROBLEMS. PAPER WILL BE DRAFTED WITH EXPECTATION THAT CCP COULD ADOPT IT.

4. FIVE SPECIFIC COMMODITY MATTERS WILL BE TREATED QUITE PERFUNCTORILY AS JUST A REVIEW OF THE MOST ACTIVE CCP COMMODITY GROUPS. LEEKS IS SPECIFICALLY AVOIDING IN THE CCP A GENERAL REVIEW OF ALL COMMODITIES OR DISCUSSION OF THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL SITUATION. UNDER OTHER COMMODITY PROBLEMS MAY COME UP THE NEED FOR AN FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON HIDES AND SKINS. LEEKS WAS ALSO WONDERING IF HE SHOULD RAISE THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING DORMANT INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS LIKE COCOA AND MAYBE THE CITRUS AND WINE GROUPS. EMBOFF INDICATED THE TERMINATION OF ANY INACTIVE
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BUT OLD COMMITTEES SHOULD BE WELCOMED, ESPECIALLY SINCE FAO CAN ALWAYS CALL AN AD HOC MEETING IN A TROUBLED COMMODITY IF ONE NEEDED. ALSO UNDER THIS ITEM MAY COME THE SCHEDULE OF FAO COMMODITY MEETINGS UNDER NEW BUDGET. THIS SCHEDULE NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT TWO ISSUES FOR USG WILL BE SCHEDULING OF ONLY ONE CCP MEETING DURING 1978/79 BIENNIUM AND NO INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON GRAINS. A HEAVIER SCHEDULE OF COMMODITY MEETINGS FOR COMMODITIES OF GREAT INTEREST TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED NATIONS IS SAID TO BE PLANNED.

5. LEEKS IS INTENDING TO ASK UNCTAD COMMODITIES DIRECTOR CHEDZERO TO BRIEF THE GROUP ON THE UNCTAD COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS. EMBOFF TOOK ADVANTAGE OF LEAD TO STRESS USG INTEREST IN A STRONG ROLE IN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY POLICY PER OUR POSITION AT DECEMBER FAO COUNCIL SESSION. BRANCO AND LEEKS RESPONDED THAT COMMODITY EXPERTISE WAS VITAL TO FAO'S ROLE AS WORLD AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION AND THAT FAO WAS STRENGTHENING THIS AREA.BEAUDRY

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